

REMARKS

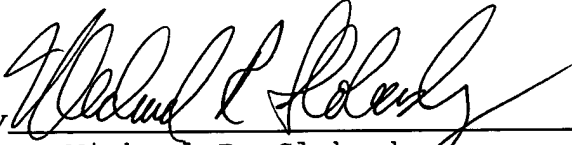
The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee and to cancel claim 31 and add claim 32.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

4. (amended) A method for conditioning a substrate mass as claimed in claim 1 [any preceding claim] wherein the supply system is in hydraulic and electrical continuity with the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure and a reservoir.
5. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any of the preceding claims] comprising additionally reversing the polarity of the conducting elements during the method, or supplying conditioning material of different charge during the method.
6. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any of the preceding claims] wherein the substrate is selected from soil, loam, earth, sod, clay, weak rock, gravel, stones, sewerage, sludge and mixtures thereof.
7. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any of the preceding claims] wherein a conditioning material is selected from water, aqueous media or solutions, salts, nutrients, supplementary carbon sources, supplementary oxygen sources, terminal electron acceptors, water retention materials, thickening materials, biomass, pH regulators, temperature regulators, minerals, reducing agents, oxidants, absorbents, metal particles, coated metal particles, non-metallic catalyst materials, grout, lime or mixtures thereof.
8. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any preceding claim] wherein a conditioning material is a substrate mass softening material and the method comprises the further step of either

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burying or retrieving an object in/from the softened substrate mass.

10. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any of claims 1-7] wherein the substrate mass comprises a structural foundation, a sports pitch, a leisure site or a field and wherein water is supplied to the substrate mass via the supply system and/or removed from the substrate mass via the evacuation system to thereby control the moisture content of the substrate mass.

11. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 2 [any of claims 2-10] wherein the substrate mass is soil, a conditioning material is a soil nutrient and the removed material is a soil contaminant, a by-product, excess water or a mixture thereof.

12. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any of claims 1-7] wherein a conditioning material is a decontaminant or contaminant absorbent.

14. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 [either of claims 12 or 13] wherein the decontaminant/contaminant absorbent conditioning material comprises a bacteria.

15. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any of claims 1-7] wherein the conditioning material is a cohesion inducing material.

16. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any of claims 1-7] wherein the conditioning material comprises an electrolyte which serves to conduct a current between the elements to thereby kill contaminant bacteria in the substrate mass.

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19. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 [either of claims 17 or 18] wherein the supply system and the optional evacuation system comprise respective reservoir(s) in hydraulic and electrical continuity with the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure.

21. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 [any of claims 17-20] wherein the supply and/or removal system comprises a pump.

22. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 [any of claims 17-21] wherein one or more of said at least one further conducting element is a metallic non electrokinetic geosynthetic electrode.

23. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 [any one of claims 17-22] wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises a solid body having a central core which serves as the supply system and/or reservoir and optionally as the evacuation system and/or reservoir.

24. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 [any one of claims 17-23] wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises a pure or composite metallic or a conducting non-metallic.

25. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 [any of claims 17-24] wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises one or more lines of spaced elongate conducting members.

26. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 [any of claims 17-25] wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises a reinforcing element

28. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 [any of claims 17-27] wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure comprises a non-conductive material with conductive material running through it at least partially on a surface of the structure.

29. (amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 [any of claims 17-28] wherein the electrokinetic geosynthetic structure is in the form of a continuous elongate tube, tape or rope.

30. (amended) A substrate mass conditioned using the method as claimed in claim 1 [any of claims 1-16 and/or a substrate mass conditioned using the apparatus as claimed in any of claims 17-29].

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